

Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan



December 2011

MARSH ISLAND (PORTERSVILLE BAY) RESTORATION PROJECT

GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Marsh Island (Portersville Bay) Restoration Project involves the creation of salt marsh along Marsh Island, a state-owned island in the Portersville Bay portion of Mississippi Sound, Alabama. This project would restore approximately 50 acres of salt marsh through the placement of a permeable segmented breakwater, the placement of sediments and the planting of native marsh vegetation. Additionally, the breakwater will provide protection for the existing 24 acres of Marsh Island, which has been experiencing shoreline loss at the rate of 5-10' per year.

RESOURCE BENEFITS AND RELATIONSHIP TO INJURY

The goal of the Marsh Island (Portersville Bay) Restoration Project is to create a structurally robust, emergent salt marsh designed to provide maximum salt marsh ecological benefits as soon as practicable. The restored marsh will provide compensation for salt marsh habitat services lost in Alabama due to the Oil Spill. Marshes in Mississippi Sound were oiled by the spill although the oil did not come ashore on Marsh Island itself.

METHODS AND RESULTS OF OFFSETS ESTIMATION

For the purposes of negotiations of Offsets with BP in accordance with the Framework Agreement, the Trustees used Habitat Equivalency Analysis to estimate Offsets provided by the Marsh Island Project. Offsets reflect units of discounted service acre years (DSAYs) of salt marsh, and would be applied against salt marsh habitat along the coast of Alabama injured by the Oil Spill as determined by the Trustees' total assessment of injury. In estimating DSAYs, the Trustees considered a number of factors, including, but not limited to, anticipated protection of Marsh Island's existing acres of marsh provided by the project, new marsh created by the project, the time period that it would take for created marsh to provide different levels of ecological benefits, the time period over which the project would continue to provide benefits, and the ecological benefits of created marsh relative to existing marsh habitats that were not affected by the oil spill. Total estimated Offsets for the Marsh Island Project are 540 DSAYs.

ESTIMATED COST:

Construction of the Marsh Island Project would cost approximately \$9,400,000.00.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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Marsh Island (Portersville Bay) Restoration Project, Portersville Bay, Alabama

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